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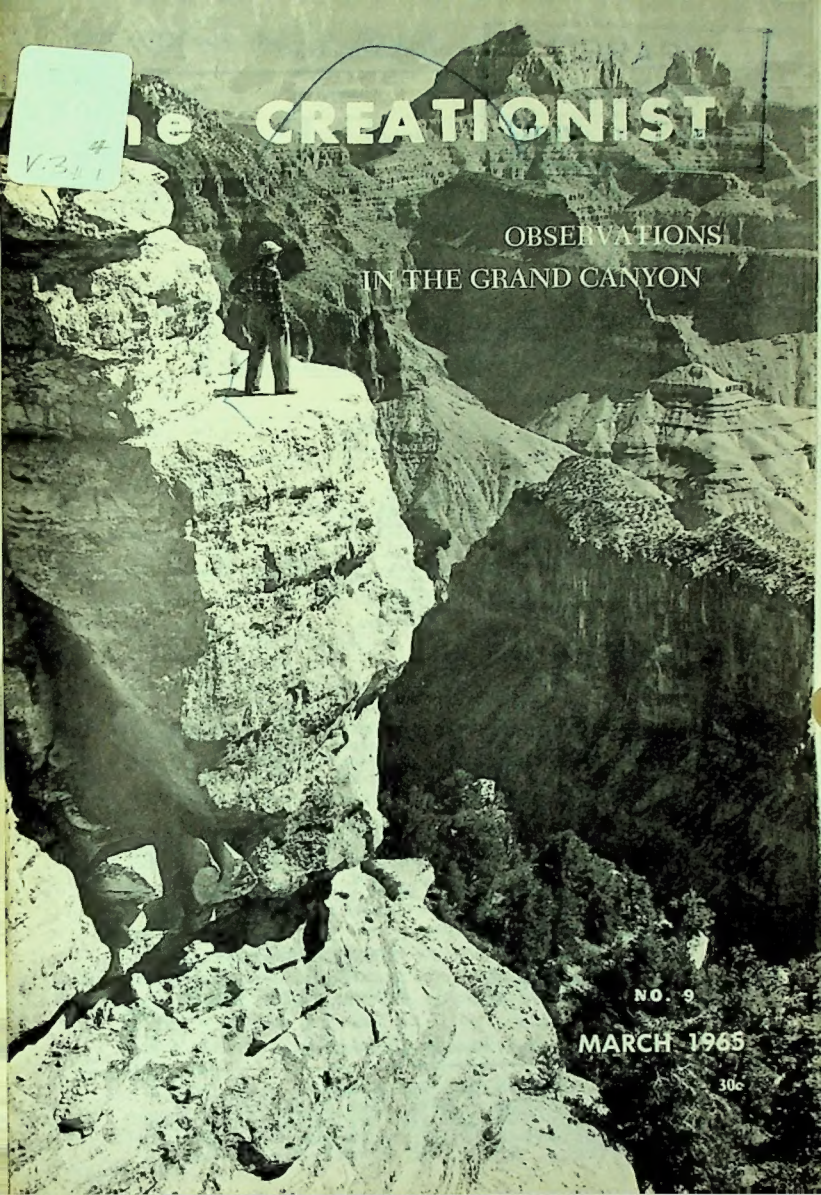
he CREATIONIST

OBSERVATIONS IN THE GRAND CANYON



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GEOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION

Group	System	Series	Dominant Type of Life
Cenozoic	Quaternary or Post-Tertiary or Pleistocene	Recent Terrace Drift (Glacial)	Man
	Tertiary	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene Paleocene	Mammals
Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Upper or Cretaceous Proper Lower or Comanchean	Reptiles Conifers and Palms
	Jurassic	Upper (Malm) Middle (Dogger) Lower (Lias)	
	Triassic	Upper (Keuper) Middle (Muschelkalk) Lower (Bunter Sandstein)	
Paleozoic	Permian	Upper Lower	Amphibians and Coal Plants
	Carboniferous	Pennsylvanian Mississippian	
	Devonian	Upper Middle Lower	Fishes and Insects
	Silurian	Upper — Monroan Middle — Salina Lower — Niagara	Invertebrates
	Ordovician	Upper — Cincinnatian Middle — Champlainian Lower — Canadian	
	Cambrian	Saratogan Acadian Waucobian	
Primary or Primitive	Algonkian Archæan		Few Fossils or None

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by CLIFFORD L. BURDICK

C. L. BURDICK

Nature Tells the Truth

IT HAS often been said that, next to the Bible, God designs to reveal Himself to the human race through the book of nature.

Jesus said that if men refuse to witness for Him, the very rocks would cry out. They do cry out the message of His creative power and, rightly interpreted, they also bear witness that some overwhelming catastrophe overtook the world sometime in the past, and that a tremendous flood of waters eroded mountains rapidly, and just as rapidly deposited the resulting fragments and sediments in the form of new rock strata.

But just as men have put wrong interpretations on the printed word of God, so also many of the world's great scientists have so misinterpreted the book of nature that God is rarely mentioned as its Author. Much less is the Flood of Noah considered by many as anything more than folklore.

Recently I was engaged in some field geologic study in northern Arizona, in company with a Moslem geologist from Pakistan. As we studied together the awe-inspiring, colorful rock formations, I asked him if he believed there was a great universal flood in the days of Noah, destroying all life. After a moment's reflection he replied that he had never heard of such a flood, but that he had heard of Noah as a great prophet of ancient times.

The plight of my Moslem friend somewhat typifies the present state of the scientific world. Many scientists believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, or at least know

about Him; but as for Noah, he is in many cases just an old Testament character. As for the Flood connected with his name, that was, in their opinion, just a "freshet" in the Euphrates River basin.

If Jesus was an inspired prophet, as well as the Son of God, could He have been mistaken in thinking that the Flood in Noah's time, that covered the whole world, according to Moses (Genesis 7, 8), was a historical event? Matthew 24:37-39. Here the Lord actually spoke of the Flood as a fact. How can a person be consistent with himself in accepting Jesus as the Christ, and at the same time deny the historicity of the Deluge which Christ affirmed?

As one drives across the hundreds of miles of the Colorado plateau in northern Arizona, with its thousands of square miles of flat-lying rocks, one needs to be blind indeed not to see the message of the great universal Flood. What other agency could account for the conformable flat-lying strata covering such a vast area of the earth's crust to such a depth?

Deluge geology has an adequate mechanism to account for such great areas of flat-lying rock strata. But what do the anti-Flood geologists have to offer as an alternative cause? Charles Lyell fenced in geological thought, leaving only the gateway of *uniformity* by which to enter. As a result, geologic phenomena are judged by the slow geologic action of the present. The principal present-day means of laying down fresh water strata is by stream action, carrying silt with the current until it reaches the sea or some lake, and depositing the sedimentary load in the river delta, or the flood plain.

But river deltas are comparatively small accumulations of sediments compared with some of the vast plateaus of earth. Furthermore, a river delta does not consist of merely flat-lying strata, but the advancing front of the delta is characterized by *fore-set beds,* that is, strata that dip acutely with the drop off into deep water. Where are the fore-set beds of the Colorado plateau?

The alternative explanation of *transgressive and regressive* seas does not help much either. An advancing or a retreating sea coast means a change of seashore level and a series of terraces, rather than vast areas of fairly level strata. The writer traveled across the Black Mesa with its 7,500 square miles of nearly level rock strata, in company with about thirty budding geologists, out to learn geology by firsthand observation.

Up in Bonita Canyon, about three miles west of Fort Defiance, is an outcrop of dark, Precambrian quartzite. At least it is so listed. Overlying this quartzite is the Supai sandstone, listed as Permian in geologic age. All the remainder of the record of the Paleozoic ages is missing. Was there no deposition of sediments during these supposed hundreds of millions of years? Or were the sediments all eroded away, and if so why was this outcrop of quartzite left? Surely such long ages would erase even the hard remnants of quartzite.

The current explanation of geology is that the Defiance Uplift was a *positive* area during all Paleozoic time. True, that would preclude the possibility of sedimentation, if the area was above water, but if a positive area, above water, then erosion does its incessant work until it is peneplained down to near the level of the sea. Such peneplanation should have eroded that bluff or Precambrian quartzite.

If we revert to the adequate geologic explanation of the Deluge, a lot of these embarrassing problems do not arise. Just why must geology postulate that some three hundred million years elapsed between the formation of the quartzite of Bonita Canyon and the laying down of the overlying red Supai Permian sandstone? Merely because the index fossil authorities back in some museum declare that the type of fossil found in the Supai formation required all those hundreds of millions of years to evolve from the cambrian types.

But where is the actual proof of *macroevolution* (evolution in the broad sense, from mollusk to man)? The rocks themselves, they admit, are the only real proof. But when the rocks themselves tell some other story, then where does the hypothesis of evolution stand?

With that embarrassing hundreds-of-millions-of-years hiatus to account for in Bonita Canyon, it surely looks as if we cannot trust the fossils all the way Scientists try to prove *macroevolution* by the orderly succession of evolutionary sequence of life in the geological "ages," as witnessed by the fossils, but when Bonita Canyon and a thousand other like places tell a different story, it's about time that we should re-examine the theory.

Evolution proves the geologic ages, and the geologic ages prove evolution, they claim. According to pure logic, proofs appear to be lacking for both evolution and the geologic ages, though many scientists thus reason in a circle.

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HOW OLD Is the Grand Canyon?

Mystery of the Missing Millenniums

I ARRIVED at the south rim of the Grand Canyon, Arizona, in mid-June, with an interested friend, to try to read from the Creator's book of geologic formations where it was opened especially wide for our inspection. This gorgeous spectacle has inspired many to write of it in superlative terms. Robert Sterling Yard declared, "The Grand Canyon is the colossus of canyons, by far the hugest example of stream erosion in the world." According to Charles Dudley Warner, "It is by common consent the most stupendous spectacle in the world."

To a geologist the Grand Canyon is even more meaningful, as Charles Schuchert of Yale remarked, "For eight days the writer had the greatest scientific pleasure of his life in that geological wonderland, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River in Arizona. Truly such a geological insight into the structure of the earth's outer shell is nowhere else to be had. It is a paradise for the stratigrapher."

We had come to the right place, for we intended to study stratigraphy. It was with difficulty that we found camping space, but the rising sun found us ready to exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" We studied the rock exposures from many points along the rim before we finally started the long hike down into the canyon to the river a mile below.

By way of briefing, it might be well to point out that during the 5,000-foot descent into the canyon, we shall observe most of the Paleozoic era, usually estimated at around 400,000,000 years; the Proterozoic era, of nearly the same expanse of time; and part of the Archeozoic era, of approximately equal length. The Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras are missing in the Grand Canyon, but supposedly are

the most recent and occupy only some 15 per cent of total time. In other words, according to "orthodox" geologic chronology, part of the fascination of the canyon is supposed to be based on the viewing of the geologic activity of more than a billion years.

In making the long descent, we passed the light-colored capping stratum, the Kaibab member of the Permian formation, forming a rim cliff. This was evidently of marine origin, for we found many sea shells. The next member of the Permian period, the Toroweap, was little more than a talus slope.

Next came the strikingly beautiful cream-colored vertical Coconino sandstone member, about 300 feet thick, noted for its cross-bedding, probably due to wind-blown sand of dune origin. To the keen observer it will be noted that given horizons on the west side of the path appear 186 feet higher than on the east. The geologist will explain this discrepancy as due to a north and south fault line which forms the basis of Bright Angel Canyon.

Another reminder of this bright Coconino band seen all around the canyon near the top is the abundance of animal tracks exposed at various places. Charles Schuchert collected and described some of them and placed them in the Peabody Museum at Yale University.

In this collection are seen ten impressions of front and rear feet, named Laoporus schucherti. They were quadrupeds of broad, stumpy clawed feet. The trackway was wide, indicating a bulky body. It had no dragging tail. More weight was borne by the rear foot, as if climbing. Lull describes the animal as an ancestral amphibian, of the group Protopoda.

The next lower formation is the Hermit shale, forming another talus slope. In contrast to the buff Coconino, the Hermit is reddish. Below the Hermit shale followed conformably the thick Supai red lower member of the Permian formation, at this point some 850 feet in thickness. In a first glance at the canyon one is impressed with its gorgeous red color. Actually the thick red Supai is responsible for most of that color. True, the 550-foot Redwall formation just below is also red in most places, but its coloration is due to red, iron-charged waters seeping down over its natural gray limestone and discoloring it.

The Supai is notable for cyclic sedimentation; that is, alternating strata of sandstone and shale, assumed to have been deposited in river flood plains. The fossils are of continental nature, but this cyclic sedimentation has always been somewhat of a puzzler for orthodox geology to explain—why a river at one time could deposit one type of sediment mineralogically, and at another time another type. Of course,

a swift moving stream can move coarser material, perhaps conglomerate, while more slowly moving water will move coarse sand, and quietly moving water very fine sand or silt —these sediments representing more or less the same type of source materials.

The shale here is formed by different types of source materials—mineralogically, weathered feldspar and mica. A river can scarcely switch back and forth from one source to another, but the geological mechanism described in Genesis 8 could. Genesis 8:1-3 tells how God dried up the waters of the Flood by causing a strong wind to blow, which caused the waters to dry up by "going and returning," as the margin explains. In other words, the floodwaters, far more expansive than any river, carried sediments from one direction, from one source or type of rock detritus, and deposited it over vast areas, as we see today in the vast Colorado plateau, especially the Grand Canyon region. Then the wind changed and brought another type of sediment from some other source area, where a very different type of rock, mineralogically, existed.

This mechanism, which orthodox geological theory does not recognize, would clear up many a stratigraphical mystery, for this cyclic type of sedimentation is very common all over the world. One Stratigrapher was troubled because a certain fossil layer was found overlain by a thick barren layer, indicating that said fossil had become extinct, only to find, on top of the barren stratum, a repetition of the same fossil layer. The evolution theory allows of no backtracking, no renewal of a species, once it has become extinct. Could something be wrong with the theory?

The Permian Supai formation above was assumed to have been deposited as continental river flood-plain deposits, while the underlying Redwall (Mississippian) was believed to have been deposited in deep, quiet sea water. Surely that would call for a rapid and decided change of environment from the deep ocean to a continental river bed; for there is little physical evidence of time interruption between the deposition of the two deposits, as seen in their contacts.

In a paper, "A Reconnaisance of Parts of Northern New Mexico and Northern Arizona," N. H. Darton says, "The separation of the Supai from the underlying Redwall is not everywhere as clear as could be desired." Had there been the long hiatus necessary to elevate the Redwall limestone in a continental uplift with a mature river system needed to deposit 850 feet of river flood-plain Supai deposits, Mr. Darton might not have complained about the lack of distinctness of separation.

Actually the river deposits total some 1,100 feet, rather than 850, because the Supai deposits were followed by the 300 feet of Hermit shale river muds.

As we further follow orthodox geological reasoning in regard to the Supai and Hermit members, more incongruities appear. Where in any of the great river systems today do we find streams aggrading their beds one thousand feet or more? Since the days of Joseph and the Pharaohs, Egypt has depended on its flood plains of the Nile to feed the people. The Mississippi River has even built up a natural levee along its lower course which brings it some feet above the general flood plain; but were it to build up 1,000 to 1,200 feet, it would mean slack water backing up to Wisconsin and Minnesota, almost to its source; and without river flow it would be impossible to transport the sediments to its lower flood plain.

A river system in the stage of youth is cutting its gorge, but a mature system with flood plain in its lower part is assumed to have reached more or less a state of equilibrium as between erosion and deposition, with the flood

plain near base level or close to its point of emptying into the sea or lake. Barrell defined "base level" as the state of equilibrium between erosion and deposition.

W. H. Twenhofel, in *Principles of Sedimentation,* stated: "Sediments of the valley flat environment are usually not very thick." Subsidence could encourage deposition, but unless the rate of deposition is exactly geared to the rate of sinking, the flood plain could soon become a marine environment.

There are many geologic problems inherent in the river flood-plain explanation of some 1,200 feet of Hermit and Supai sediments. They are not the narrow, flood-plain type of deposit. The observer sees the Supai in the Grand Canyon; also one hundred miles south, in Oak Creek Canyon; also in the Defiance Uplift, some two hundred miles to the east. Where is any present-day river depositing any such extensive flood plain? Uniformity is unable to account for many of the geologic phenomena we see today. Some geologic mechanism of catastrophic proportions is needed. Moses was one of the few writers on geology to describe such a catastrophe, which he did in Genesis, chapters 7 and 8.

By the time we had reached the contact of the Supai with the underlying Redwall (Mississippian in age), it appeared that we had descended almost halfway to the bottom. There were shelter houses with running water, so we decided to pause for a rest and reflect on what we had seen.

OBSERVATIONS IN THE GRAND CANYON -- III

The Rocks Cry Out

IN DESCENDING half the depth of the Grand Canyon my friend and I had passed five massive rock formations, or members of the Permian. According to the descriptive literature, the exposed rock strata of the canyon comprise the geologic "ages" or "column" all the way from the Pre-Cambrian up through the entire Paleozoic era perhaps comprising some billion years. Therefore if the sedimentation rate has been as uniform as uniformitarian geology says it should be, in descending halfway to the bottom of the canyon we should have observed the results of some 500,000,000 years of sedimentation. We checked on our chart to see if we were right.

To our amazement we found that the five massive formations

traversed represent only the five members of the Permian formation. Then, referring to our International Stratigraphic Table of the fossiliferous part of Geological Formations, we found that the Permian represents only some 20,000,000 years. What can be wrong? Have the stratigraphers slipped up somewhere? Could the top 2,000 feet of rock formations have been laid down in only one twenty-fifth of the time required for the bottom half? What could have so greatly accelerated the rate of deposition as the Paleozoic era came to a close? We are getting dangerously close to the speed of cataclysm, for, after all, the Permian was assumed to have occupied only about 3 per cent of geologic time. Was the principle of uniformity out of gear for a while? Perhaps the idea of Noah's Flood was not so farfetched after all.

While on the subject of uniformity, we might mention that the idea was first conceived by James Hutton in Scotland in 1795, but Charles Lyell was the one who really "sold" the scientific world on it. Charles Schuchert of Yale explained the conception: "The principle of uniformity and continuity in Nature implies the improbability of violent catastrophism in either the lifeless or living worlds; it teaches that we must seek in the operation of Nature's present actions the explanation of her past acts. This is the *law of uniformity.*"

While it is granted that many scientists do not now hold quite as rigidly to the law as did Lyell, as Nevin explained in his *Structural Geology,* "there is still the tendency for geologists to regard the law of uniformity as immutable." *

Until the recent trend to radioactivity as a geologic time clock it might be recalled that the assumed average rate of sedimentation was one of the principal methods of estimating the age of the earth. In 1922 T. C. Chamberlin of the University of Chicago Department of Geology stated: "The mean of the four estimates on the basis of the sediments was 90,000,000 years." Uniformity is here assumed.

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*At the December 1963 meeting of the American Geological Society in New York City, Norman Newell, paleontologist from the American Museum of Natural History in New York, had this to say in regard to this geological problem: "Geology suffers from a great lack of data, and in such a situation any attractive theory that comes along is taken as gospel. That is the case with uniformitarianism. Geology students are taught that 'the present is the key to the past,' and they too often take it to mean that nothing ever happened that is not happening now. But since the end of World War Two, when a new generation moved in we have gathered more data, and we have begun to realize that there were many catastrophic events in the past, some of which happened just once."

As my friend and I left the red Supai sandstone, we noted a sign mentioning a new formation, the Redwall. The color had not changed, but the type of rock lithologically had. The Supai was composed of thin layers of red sandstone and shale; the Redwall was about what the name implied, a red rock forming a wall. As already mentioned, its red color was a stain from the overlying Supai. In the location where the Supai had been eroded away, the Redwall was gray limestone, indicating that the altering of the iron from ferrous to ferric iron was a comparatively recent event.

The Redwall is a hard, weather-resistant, 500-foot-thick stratum of limestone that forms vertical cliffs. Here the formations changed from the Permian age to the Mississippian. But where was the Pennsylvanian formation that should have been found between the Supai and the Redwall?

That missing formation was supposed to have consumed as much of geologic time as the 2,000 feet of Permian. And that is not all. Not only is the Pennsylvanian period not represented, but the preceding two thirds of Mississippian time, a hiatus, or break, supposedly almost twice as long as all of Permian time with its more than 2,000 feet of sediments.

Schuchert comments on this problem: "This disconformity has far greater significance than the physical phenomena would seem to indicate; for the fossils of the Redwall are here all of early Mississippian age. Nothing of later Mississippian time is present here or in Arizona, and the land interval preceding Supai deposition was certainly longer than all of Redwall time."

In other words, physically there is slight evidence of break in sediment deposition; but according to the fossil gap, based on the evolutionary concept, there may be a gap of 50,000,000 years.

Gaps in deposition usually mean positive areas, that is, land above water; but Schuchert admits, "The earlier Pennsylvanian sea was widespread in the Colorado plateau country, as shown by its unmistakable presence in the San Juan area of southeast Utah."

If the positive, or land, area existed for all those millions of years, surely there was ample time to erode away most or all of Redwall formation; but, strange to relate, there appears little erosional unconformity, no angular discordance.

Some have tried to explain these long gaps containing neither signs of erosion or deposition by saying that the land was too low to erode, and too high to be under water; in other words, a peneplained surface barely above water. And this static condition was supposed to have persisted for millions of years!

In *Principles of Sedimentation* Twenhofel states (page 6), "If an environment always remained constant at the conditions that permitted a mineral to form, there would be no changes. There are probably no places on the earth's surface, or in

the outer crust where immutability is possible. Environments are constantly changing."

The tendency to multiply millions of years to geologic time has returned as a boomerang to embarrass the stratigraphers, as Schuchert remarked in his *Historical Geology*, "Truly there is now an embarrassing richness of time."

As we descended deeper into the Grand Canyon, we observed that the weather was growing warmer, and the type of vegetation was changing; pines and oaks are replaced by willows and cottonwoods.

Soon the Redwall limestone, of Mississippian age, was left above us. According to the stratigraphic chart we should next find the Devonian fish formation; however, through most of the Grand Canyon this formation is missing, and it is not to be found on the Bright Angel trail. At the moment we were following the Kaibab trail, and my friend was much intrigued when at last he found an exposure of this purplish lens of Devonian sandwiched between the Redwall formation and the Muav limestone, which is the highest member at this point of the Cambrian period.

Here is an erosional unconformity, for most of the lenses of Devonian age found in the canyon seem to be fillings of Karst topography in the Cambrian. That is, some gulches had been eroded in the Cambrian and the sediments containing the fish were washed in. Here again Flood action is suggested.

Except for the very few Devonian lenses, for the most part the contact between the Cambrian Muav and the Mississippian Redwall appears to be about as conformable as that between the members of Permian, a slight change in lithology.

The beds lie almost level, but there is an evident change of rock type from the Redwall to the Muav, though not as striking as in places where the Redwall lies directly on the Bright Angel shale, which is rather cream-colored, with a tinge of olive drab. Apparently there could have been no great interval between the time when the shale was deposited and the time when the Redwall limestone began to be deposited.

Again we consulted our stratigraphy chart of the Grand Canyon and were almost shocked to discover that the Ordovician, the Silurian, and part of the Devonian formations are completely missing. As already stated, in most places the Devonian is completely missing. If the fossil fish were merely washed into the recesses, then actually the Devonian formation as such is missing.

This depositional gap, or hiatus, is far more serious as a challenge to evolution than the missing Pennsylvanian disconformity. Since at least twice as much time is involved, a matter of some 150,000,000 years is lost without a trace or clue.

As one observes the apparent conformity of sedimentation, he wonders how more than a few years could have been involved. Surely those millions of years should have sufficed to

have eroded away all the underlying strata. But since trilobites or other Cambrian fossils were found in the Muav, and Mississippian fossils in the Redwall, evolutionists compute the time they assume to have elapsed for that much evolution.

L. F. Noble, in Bulletin 549 of the United States Geological Survey, was evidently much perplexed with this problem, for he wrote, "No representatives of the Ordovician, Silurian, or Devonian were discriminated in the area studied, the Muav limestone being succeeded without apparent stratigraphic break by the Redwall limestone."

If the rock strata do not uphold the evolutionary hypothesis, then the theory is bankrupt, for other so-called evidences are merely corroborative. Certain it is that if the rock strata do not prove evolution, then logically how can we claim that evolution proves that rock strata belong to any particular age or formation, except that in flat-lying, undisturbed strata the top layers must necessarily be younger than the bottom ones. A further conclusion would be that any formation might lie conformably on any other formation or on the Pre-Cambrian.

Louis T. Moore, of the University of Cincinnati (1925), in *Dogma of Evolution,* page 150, made the statement, "Geology can point with certainty to succession of time only at each limited area. All that geology can prove is local order of succession." The error of many scientists appears to be that they postulate a universal "onion coat" theory, that when one type of life flourished in one part of the world it likewise flourished at the same time all over the world. We know that is not true today. Just because elephants are plentiful in Africa, they are not necessarily in North America.

To accentuate this problem of the missing millenniums, we find that they are missing not only in the Grand Canyon, but all over the State of Arizona. As one stratigrapher expressed it, "You can put your thumb on the upper Devonian and your little finger on the Cambrian almost any place in the state."

Thus to lose some 100,000,000 years or more from the geologic column without a physical trace of erosion or deposition does not appear to spell good geology.

But we must hasten on to reach the Indian Gardens, then on across the Tonto Plateau to catch a close-up of the turbulent Colorado River carrying its load of sediment into Lake Mead.

As we pass the lowest member of the Cambrian, the Tapeats sandstone, we leave the long Paleozoic era, and are back into the Pre-Cambrian or Proterozoic era. On the right we pass a new rock type, a metamorphosed sandstone called quartzite, one of the hardest rocks in existence, named the Shinumo quartzite. Next we see the bright red Hakatai shale which has been fractured in a north-south normal fault. Below the Hakatai shale we find the Bass limestone, whose fault displacement is quite marked.

In some places the Proterozoic or Grand Canyon series has been tilted and truncated and overlain by the Cambrian in a marked unconformity with angular discordance. There was evidently an orogenic cycle preceding the deposition of the Paleozoic beds, as indeed several cycles may have followed the cataclysmic Deluge period.

Sitting on the overlying ledge, we watched the turbulent Colorado 1,000 feet below carrying its load of silt through the inner, or granite gorge, cut in highly metamorphosed Vishnu schist, evidently belonging to a former orogenic cycle, the Archean era. Here the observer can easily imagine the terrific convulsions that took place in the crust of the earth at the time of the Flood, and perhaps for some time afterward. The antediluvian mountains were cut away, and compressive forces with heat metamorphosed the rocks into the present Vishnu schist and granite gneiss. Into the fractures were intruded granite and other igneous rock. There is a marked unconformity between the contorted Vishnu schist and the later Proterozoic rocks, marking the transition from the Archean era to the Proterozoic era.

If we be allowed to discard the fossil *onion coat* theory and believe that antediluvian or ancient life was contemporaneous such as it is today, but living in its suitable ecological zones, perhaps the story of the missing millenniums may not present quite as great a mystery as we thought. The building blocks of the fossils seem to fit together in the scientific edifice of creationism, much better than does evolution or the succession of life in the geologic ages. However, it is apparent that both creationists and evolutionists still have much to learn from the lesson book of nature.

Bertrand Russell, that keen British scientist, sums it up in these words: "When men began to reason, they tried to justify the inferences that they had drawn unthinkingly in earlier days. A great deal of bad philosophy and bad science resulted from this propensity."—*The A B C of Relativity*, 1925, page 224. Mr. Russell also adds: "What we know about the physical world, I repeat, is much more abstract than was formerly supposed." If this be true, then man, it seems, would do well to supplement that little knowledge with the greater knowledge and wisdom given him in the word of God. [END]

Reprinted from *Signs of the Times*, Oct., Nov., and Dec. 1957, with the permission of the publishers and consent of the author who made some revisions.

Consult *Challenge of Creation* ($1.50) for more on the Grand Canyon

Evolution *and* GEOLOGY

¶Geology is the basic proof of evolution. If this primary science fails to prove evolution, evolution signally fails of proof. What answers do the fossils give to the interrogations of science?

By

George McCready Price, M. A.

THE theory of organic evolution consists essentially of two quite distinct phases, the biological (in the broadest sense) and the geological. And of them, the geological is much the more important; though very few seem to look at the matter in this light.

The biological arguments for organic evolution are those based on the similarity of form or structure between man and the apes; those based on variation in modern forms, including the results of experimental breeding; those based on classification; and those based on embryology. But the geological argument appeals to *time;* it attempts to show that certain kinds of life lived and passed away *long before* other kinds of life came into existence. In other words, geology (as taught by evolutionists) attempts to arrange the various kinds of fossils, or the remains of plants and animals of the long ago, in a real chronological order; and thus we have the outline or the historical background to which all evolutionists always appeal for the support of their theory.

But the geological arrangement of the fossils in a supposed historical order is the only thing that could make the biological arguments of any possible significance or value. By our study of botany and zo-ology we might notice how much certain kinds resemble others; we might even think that the modern kinds of life are very "plastic," or are capable of becoming transformed into other kinds by the effects of the invironment, or in other ways. But we would even then need to have some very clear and reliable history of at least the general course which the various kinds of animals and plants have actually followed since the begin-

nings of things, in order to give our biological theories any substantiality. The geological part, or the alleged history of organic life in at least a fairly complete outline, is of necessity by far the most important line of evidence for organic evolution. The geological part is primary, the biological quite secondary.

Evolution Stands or Falls with Geology

OF COURSE, in all this I am not dealing with Darwinism, or Lamarckism, or Mutationism, nor indeed with any minor phase of the doctrine; but with the entire scheme of organic development. In any such broad view of the theory of evolution, the time-element is of prime importance; and this time element is found only in geology as commonly taught. If geology does not give us absolute proof that at least an outline of evolutionary development has actually occurred, it would be useless, if not actually silly, for us to spend our time hunting around among the modern processes of organic life for laws or forces which might be capable of bringing about a transformation of one type of life into another. This possibility of a transformation of type might (unless we had an authentic history to the contrary) have been in the direction of a degeneration downward, instead of an evolution upward. Accordingly, an authentic and trustworthy record of actual changes which have taken place in the plants and animals of our world during a long succession of ages in a very definite order, is after all the prime thing. For the evolution argument it is *primary* both in time and in logic; that is, an evolutionary geology is an absolute prerequisite to any and every scheme of organic evolution.

With this view of the matter all clear thinkers have always been in full agreement. Thus, Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan, of Columbia University, says:

"The direct evidence furnished by fossil remains is by all odds the strongest evidence we have in favor of organic evolution."—"*A Critique of the Theory of Evolution*," *p. 24.*

Smoothing the Road for Darwin

HUXLEY declared that Lyell's system of uniformitarian geology "was the chief agent in smoothing the road for Darwin," so far as he himself was concerned, and also so far as the world as a whole was concerned. And everybody knows that Lyell's book, which Darwin took with him on his voyage around the world, was the intellectual groundwork of all of Darwin's subsequent work. As Professor Judd has expressed it, "if Lyell's 'Principles of Geology' had not been written, we should never have had the 'Origin of Species.'" And we may add, there would never have been any such discussion as we are now witnessing regarding the right and the wrong of the evolution theory.

Quite recently, we have a rather remarkable book, "The Dogma of Evolution" (Princeton Univ. Press, 1925), by Dr. L. T. More, of the University of Cincinnati, which puts

this matter very pointedly. In several places Dr. More emphasizes the fact that the biological arguments, even when taken altogether and at their full supposed value, are necessarily quite secondary to the geological. But the following perhaps may suffice:

"The importance of geology to the doctrine of evolution is immediate and profound. The preservation of the fossils is purely a geological problem and the estimation of the time when these prehistoric animals and plants lived can be made only by determining when the different strata of rock were deposited. [Of course, logically, this is the necessary method; only in actual practice it has always been the other way around; the dates of the fossils are not determined by the independently known age of the rocks, but the strata are dated entirely from the alleged ages of the fossils. G. McC. P.] Thus geology is the indispensable science by which we estimate the time-factor of evolution and arrange our chain of variation."— *Pages 146, 147.*

By this latter expression, the "chain of variation," this author means the chain of successive types of life which we may then try to connect into a genealogical series, or a genealogical "tree."

Reasoning in a Circle

I UNDERSTAND that Dr. H. F. Osborn has recently written an article for one of the magazines entitled: "The Earth Speaks to Mr. Bryan"; and that he has also issued a book with the same title. I have not seen either; but I can imagine the line of argument. In *Science* for June 19, 1925, is an article entitled: "The Rocks and Hills of Dayton [Tenn.] Testify for Evolution." This article is like others of its kind; it appeals to the commonly accepted *dates* which the evolutionists have for many years assigned to the various stratified rocks, some of which are quite conspicuous around Dayton, as the main line of objective evidence in favor of organic evolution.

As for the value of the geological arrangement of the fossils, I must refer the interested reader to some of my books on this subject, particularly to "The Fundamentals of Geology" and "The New Geology" (1923);

In these books the reader will find that this geological arrangement of the fossils *is a purely artificial affair;* and that the geological writers have never really proved that certain types of plants and animals lived and died long before others; they have only *assumed* this as a fact, and have then proceeded to classify the stratified rocks of the world according to this (evolutionary) assumption. Thus it becomes evident that the geological classification of the rocks and fossils is a purely artificial arrangement,— very handy and useful, as a method of classifying the rocks and their contents, but always and wholly a mere constructive or schematized arrangement, just as is the card catalogue or index of a library. The latter is a very interesting and useful arrangement; but a man would be counted in need of a guardian who would seriously claim

(on the evidence of such a card catalogue) that all the books under A, B, and C had actually been printed long before the ones listed under X, Y, and Z. Similarly, it is an example of loose thinking, or of mere begging the question, for a person to appeal to the geological arrangement of the fossils as "evidence" in favor of organic evolution. Since the fossils (and the strata in which they are found) have been arranged in an alleged chronological order because of an evolutionary theory that certain kinds lived first and others lived long afterwards, what a lack of elementary logic it is to bring in this artificial arrangement as *evidence* in favor of organic evolution.

All of which emphasizes the necessity of understanding this illogical use of geology, in the ordinary line of evidence adduced by evolutionists in favor of their theory. For over half a century the world has been treated to a repetition of the various arguments for evolution; but it has been only within the past few years that we have awakened to the ludicrous fact that this prime argument, the geological arrangement of the fossils, has never been proved independently, but that this arrangement of the fossils is purely an artificial affair, and is itself an evolutionary assumption.

This, of course, places the question in an entirely new light. And especially when we have the additional discovery that *many well-known facts of geology contradict this evolutionary arrangement of the fossils.* Among these newly discovered facts we have the numerous large areas where the fossils were clearly laid down in an entirely different order from the evolutionary one. Chief among these is the immense area in Alberta and Montana, including the Glacier National Park, where Cretaceous beds were laid down *before* the Paleozoic; which is a flat contradiction to the accepted order assumed by evolutionary geology. The total area here involved is over 20,000 square miles.

How do the evolutionists answer this damaging line of argument? They don't try to answer it at all; they quietly ignore it; or sometimes when cornered they indulge in abuse of the present writer for having taught such things.

A Battle to be Fought All Over Again

BUT all of this only tends to emphasize the fact that the geological facts are the key to this whole question of evolution. There is no way to handle this question in an intelligent manner, unless one is willing to spend the necessary time in getting an understanding of the main features of the geological facts and their logical relationship toward the general theory of organic development. The evolutionists had an easy time of it, and always fought a winning battle, until this weakness of the geological argument was discovered some twenty-odd years ago. Since that time the tide has turned; until now we see the whole evolutionary host put squarely on the defensive,

and professedly amazed that there is such a widespread revolt against their theory. They affect to think that the battle was fought and won a generation ago; they thought that it was all over with. But they find that, as a certain man of science on the Pacific Coast expressed it, "the whole battle ground of evolution will have to be fought over again, this time not between scientists and theologians, but between scientists themselves."

And this explains the bitterness that the evolutionists are injecting into this present fight; they are bitterly disappointed, for they thought that the affair was closed long ago, and that there was nothing left but to adjust the amount of indemnity or the reparations. But now they find that their whole conclusion is being called in question.

Over here in England, where I am writing, the evolutionists have been even more secure in their self-confidence. Accordingly, there is evidence that they will be proportionately amazed when they awake to the real situation. Just at present they affect surprise at the legal agitation of the matter in the United States. But although we do not have here the clear-cut secular attitude of the public schools which prevails in the United States, yet there are signs that there may be just as much of an agitation over this matter in England soon as there is now in the United States.

In reality, it is becoming a world-wide problem; and those who will now step in and master the fundamental facts in the case will soon have an opportunity to use all they know in helping to clear up the muddled thinking on the part of the great multitudes all around them.

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GATEWAY to Yosemite National Park in California.

THE MAKING OF YOSEMITE VALLEY

by D. J. Whitney

Visitors to Yosemite are handed a folder by the Park Service telling about the valley. In this the statement is made that the valley was carved by glacial action. Geologists in their books and other writings say the same thing, although it is admitted that a number of other theories have been offered, and these would not have been offered if the glacial theory was convincing. Evidence is abundant that it is wrong.

Here are some of the reasons for believing this:

1. The elevation is not great enough for permanent snow or ice, much less for a great ice stream. The floor of the valley is only approximately 4000 feet above sea level: about two-thirds down from the crest of the Sierras in this part of the range, and at present the only permanent ice is in pockets at high elevations where the snow accumulates by wind action and is shaded from the rays of the sun. Even if, thousands of years ago the precipitation on mountain slopes was far greater than it is now, the rays of the sun would be beating down on the snow fields above the Yosemite, melting the snow and causing the snow water to pass off in a stream, or streams, rather than in a glacier.

2. The general slope of the mountain side in the drainage basin above Yosemite is to flat to cause a sliding of the snow downward, if there was a great amount of snow and ice there thousands and tens of thousands of years ago.

3. Whether the snow that fell at the higher elevations went off as ice or as water, it would cut a bed for itself, not only through the valley, but above and below it.

4. Certainly any stream of ice that could or did cut Yosemite Valley would cut a deep bed below it. Instead the Merced River bed below Yosemite is small and narrow. The stream that runs along it is small; the Merced River is one of the smallest streams that that flow from the Sierras into the San Joaquin Valley and still is called a river. The slopes bordering it are steep, making a narrow rather than a flat V, and leaving room enough at the side of the river bed for only a narrow two-lane highway. If there had been a great ice sheet above Yosemite for about a mill-

ion years, from which enormous quantities of snow water and other runoff would flow, the stream bed of the lower Merced would be much larger than it is, and much deeper. The fact that it has been cut very little below where it was when the mountains there were uplifted shows that the mountains themselves were uplifted only recently--presumably at the same general time that great lava flows to north and west occurred and the gold bearing gravels were uplifted.

What, then, is the explanation for this wonderful valley? Clearly it was formed at the time that the granite mass of the Sierra was uplifted. Seemingly the (fairly) flat floor of the valley was part of the sea floor which was uplifted with the general uplift of the land, but not otherwise disturbed, though the granite around it on all sides was pushed up more or less irregularly.

Individual parts of the granite, like El Capitan, Half-Dome and other parts that stand high and straight and with almost perpendicular walls were pushed up for thousands of feet in certain places with sheer, straight uplift. Hence the smooth perpendicular walls of El Capitan and other formations.

In connection with the time of uplift, it must have been recent. Note the various waterfalls as they fall over the cliffs. The falling water has worn rock over which it falls back into the granite hardly at all; the streams flowing above the brink seem to have deepened their original beds hardly at all. This they surely would have done if the mountains had been uplifted millions of years ago, as the ice age theory asserts.

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Inheritance of Acquired Characters

By Professor William J. Tinkle, Ph.D.

IF YOU PRACTICE on the typewriter for years until you become very proficient, will your child be born with the ability to learn such skill more readily? Is the son of the blacksmith born with calloused hands and strong muscles? If you lose a leg in war, will your child have a short limb?

These questions deal with characters that are acquired from the environment, from use, or from disuse. No one doubts whether there are acquired characters, but we question whether they are inherited.

The doctrine that such characters are inherited is called Lamarckism, from Jean Baptiste Lamarck, who lived in France in the first half of the nineteenth century. He gave a naïve explanation of the origin of adaptations; that the duck grew webs between its toes by wishing for them and stretching the skin in an effort to swim with the scant webs it was supposed to have had at an earlier time. Likewise, the giraffe was supposed to have increased the length of its neck by stretching it to eat the leaves of trees.

Yet there was no evidence that a duck without webbed feet or a giraffe with a short neck ever lived. His doctrine was laughed at, but later, many people believed it, especially when Charles Darwin pronounced in favor of it.

It is easy to think loosely on this subject. A woman might take music lessons for years, and then give birth to a daughter who showed much love for music. Nothing is proved, because the mother had a natural talent for music and this is what the daughter has inherited; and would have inherited just as much if the parent never had taken a music lesson.

The acquired character is not to be confused with a direct effect upon a reproductive cell, or developing embryo. Presumably, alcohol or lead might poison eggs or sperms of an unborn child and so weaken it that it would be born weak. The author does not question the fact that an unborn child may be injured by drugs, or may even be infected by syphilis germs before its birth. But such cases are not examples of acquired characters, for the parent had no character for the child to inherit. If a pregnant woman drinks alcohol it is simply an example of the mother and child being poisoned together. On the other hand, Lamarck thought of specific characters being built up in a person in response to the environment, to use, or to disuse, which characters would be inherited by the children during an infinite number of generations.

Some quote the proverb, "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ezek. 18:2). This indeed shows a belief in Lamarckism, but the biblical position is opposed to it, as we see when we read the entire reference, for the prophet asks, "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel?"

WEISSMANN CUT OFF THE TAILS of new-born mice for nineteen generations with the result that the last generation was born with tails just as long as the first. The Chinese bound the feet of their girl babies for hundreds of years, but still Chinese children are born with feet of normal size.

Castle and Phillips grafted ovaries from a black rabbit into a white rabbit, her own ovaries having been removed. After this white female recovered she was mated three times with a white male rabbit. All the offspring were black, six in number. The mother in which the embryos grew to the birth stage was in reality only the foster mother of the rabbits, the rabbit from which the germ-

plasm was taken being the true mother. If a character that a parent has acquired would have an effect upon the offspring, surely the white fur of the foster mother would have been inherited, but it was not.

It is true that God visits the iniquities of the parents upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation. If this were physical heredity that is referred to, it would not stop with the fourth generation. Children may be thrust into unhealthful quarters; surrounded by hatred, deceit and immorality—in short there are various ways in which children may share the results of the iniquity of the parents.

Since some scientists explained evolution by the inheritance of acquired characters, they were loath to give it up. Herbert Spencer was so convinced that he wrote, "Close contemplation of the facts impresses me more strongly than ever with the two alternatives—either there has been inheritance of acquired characters, or there has been no evolution."*

Ernst Haeckel writes in the same vein: "Belief in the inheritance of acquired characters is a necessary axiom of the monistic creed. . . . Rather than agree with Weissmann in denying the inheritance of acquired characters, it would be better to accept a mysterious creation of all the species as described in the Mosaic account."*

Some of us have believed Moses all the time, and now believe him more than ever, since modern research is disproving the alternative explanations.

OUR SUMMARY IS THAT SCIENTISTS have turned away from the inheritance of acquired characters, and that the position of the Bible is the same. While some people have tried to give their future children an advantage by building up their own bodies and minds, there are more who do the reverse, and God knows the frailty of the human heart too well to trust the race to our vagaries. How many times a child would suffer loss from its ignorant or depraved ancestors, as compared with the few times that it would be the recipient of a consciously built heritage! God protects the helpless to this extent, handing down the racial traits by means of factors in the germplasm, giving the babe a fresh start.

*Thomson, J. Arthur, *Heredity*, 5th ed., p. 189; New York, R. V. Coleman, 1926.

--*Moody Monthly*, August 1945

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